

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed June 2, 2004, claims 1-10 were allowed. Claims 11-21 and 24 were rejected. Claims 22 and 23 were objected to. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 11-21 and 24 have been cancelled without disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter in this or a related case. Claims 22 and 23 have been amended. No new claims have been added. As such, claims 1-11, 22 and 23 remain pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 11-15, 19-21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,291,941 to Enomoto *et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "Enomoto"). In light of the cancellation of these claims, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be removed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Enomoto in view of United States Patent No. 5,755,104 to Rafalovich *et al.* (hereinafter referred

to as "Rafalovich"). In light of the cancellation of these claims, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims be removed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-10 would be allowable and that claims 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have rewritten claims 22 and 23 in line with the Examiner's suggestions, and thus, these claims should be in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be removed. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1703 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

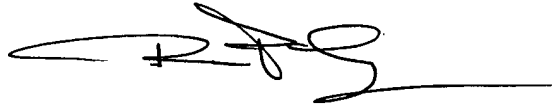
Docket No. 87334.5980
Serial No. 10/727,600
Customer No. 30734

Patent

In the event this paper is not time filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87334.5980

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cawley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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